

9

Docket No. GJE-67
Serial No. 09/856,070Remarks

Claims 31-34, 36, 50-62, 65 and 66 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, the applicants have amended claims 31, 34, 62 and 66. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the subject specification and in the claims as originally filed. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 31-34, 36, 50-62, 65 and 66 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. The amendments set forth herein have been made to lend greater clarity to the claimed subject matter and to focus the claims on the allowable subject matter. These amendments should not be taken to indicate the applicant's agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejections of record. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

Claim 66 has been objected to because the claim contains non-elected sequences. By this Amendment, the applicant has amended claim 66 wherein SEQ ID NOs:3-12 have been deleted, thus, rendering moot this objection.

Claims 62, 65 and 66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The applicant has amended claim 62 to include the full term for HIV, human immunodeficiency virus, thus, rendering moot this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 31-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gould *et al.* (The EMBO Journal 8:4133-4141, 1989). Also, claims 31-34, 62, 65 and 66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holms (U.S. Patent No. 5,773,573). Finally, claims 31-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Arpin *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,399,584). The Office Action indicates that these rejections arise because of the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" in the claims. Please note that the claims now presented for examination refer to "consisting of," thus rendering moot this grounds for rejection. Thus, the applicant respectfully traverses these grounds for rejection because the cited references do not disclose the advantageous peptides, or their use, as claimed by the current applicant.

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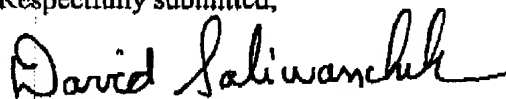
Docket No. GJE-67
Serial No. 09/856,070

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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